

Significant Issues

Currently, Fort Selden State Monument is open six days per week (closed on Tuesdays) because of staff shortages. Additionally, the adobe remains at Fort Selden State Monument continue to deteriorate because of the lack of a concerted preservation maintenance program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY04 shall revert to the general fund. However, in the General Appropriation Act, the Office of Cultural Affairs in a non-reverting agency.

Additionally, the Office of Cultural Affairs estimates that returning to a seven-day per week operation would increase annual attendance by approximately 2,000 visitors and entrance fees by approximately \$6.0.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Office of Cultural Affairs indicates it has recently completed a general management plan for Fort Selden State Monument which recommends that funding be sought for two additional employees and the establishment of a seasonal preservation crew to maintain the fort ruins.

JMG/prr